

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. A beam optical component (1; 201) for acting on a charged particle beam, (63) ~~including comprising:~~
 - a first element (3; 203) having a first opening (9; 209) for acting on said charged particle beam (63);
 - at least ~~[[a]]~~ one second element (5; 205) for acting on said charged particle beam (63);
 - a ~~[[at]]~~ least one first distance piece (20a, 20b, 20c) positioned between said first element (3; 203) and said at least one second element (5; 205) to provide for a minimum distance between said first element (3; 203) and said second element (5; 205); and
 - a first holding piece (30a; 30b; 30c) for abutting said first element (3; 203) to said at least one first distance piece (20a, 20b, 20c), ~~whereby~~ wherein said first holding piece (30a; 30b; 30c) is attached to said at least one first distance piece (20a, 20b, 20c).
2. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 1, further comprising a second holding piece (32a; 32b; 32c) for abutting said second element (5; 205) to the ~~at least one~~ first distance piece (20a, 20b, 20c).
3. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 2, ~~whereby~~ wherein the second holding piece (32a; 32b; 32c) is attached to the ~~at least one~~ first distance piece (20a, 20b, 20c).
4. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~any one of the previous claims, whereby~~ wherein the at least one second element (5; 205) has a first structured portion (10; 15; 210) to be aligned to said first opening (9; 209).

5. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ claim 4, whereby wherein the first structured portion (10; 15; 210) comprises a second opening (10; 210) to act on the charged particle beam.

6. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, further comprising a third element (7) having a second structured portion (11; 17) to be aligned to the first opening (9; 209).

7. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to claim 5 of claim 6~~, whereby wherein the second structured portion (11; 17) comprises a third opening (11) to act on the charged particle beam.

8. A beam optical component for acting on a charged particle beam, comprising:
a first element having a first opening for acting on said charged particle beam;
at least one second element for acting on said charged particle beam;
a first distance piece positioned between said first element and said at least one second element to provide for a minimum distance between said first element and said second element;
a first holding piece for abutting said first element to said first distance piece,
wherein said first holding piece is attached to said first distance piece;
a third element having a second structured portion to be aligned to the first opening;
and

~~The beam optical component (1; 201) according to claim 5 or 6, comprising a further at least one second distance piece (22a; 22b; 22c) to define a minimum distance between the second element (5; 205) and the third element (7).~~

9. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ claim 8 ~~[[7]]~~, comprising a third holding piece (34a; 34b; 34c) for abutting the second element (5; 205) to the ~~further at least one second distance piece (22a; 22b; 22c).~~

10. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 9 ~~claim 7 or 8,~~ comprising a fourth holding piece (36a; 36b; 36c) for abutting the third element (7) to the second ~~further at least one~~ distance piece (22a; 22b; 22c).

11. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 10 ~~any one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the at least one first distance piece (20a; 20b; 20c) and/or or the ~~further at least one~~ second distance piece (22a; 22b; 22c) are each three distance pieces.

12. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 10 ~~any one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the at least one first distance piece (20a; 20b; 20c) and/or or the ~~further at least one~~ second distance piece (22a; 22b; 22c) are spherically shaped.

13. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 10 ~~any one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the at least one first distance piece (20a; 20b; 20c) and/or or the ~~further at least one~~ second distance piece (22a; 22b; 22c) are spherically shaped bodies having at least one waist to reduce the lateral extension of the sphere.

14. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 9 ~~any one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the first, second and/or or third holding piece (30a; 30b; 30c; 32a; 32b; 32c; 34a; 34b; 34c; 36a; 36b; 36c) ~~includes~~ comprises a pin, a holding screw (50), a setscrew (51) or a notched pin (57) ~~sticked~~ inserted into the respective distance piece (20a; 20b; 20c; 22a; 22b; 22c) for the attachment of the first, second and/or or third holding piece (30a; 30b; 30c; 32a; 32b; 32c; 34a; 34b; 34c; 36a; 36b; 36c) to the respective distance piece (20a; 20b; 20c; 22a; 22b; 22c).

15. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 9 ~~any one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the first, second and/or or third holding piece (30a; 30b; 30c; 32a; 32b; 32c; 34a; 34b; 34c; 36a; 36b; 36c) ~~includes~~ comprises respective nuts (50; 52) for abutting the respective electrode to the respective distance piece.

16. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 9 ~~any one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the first, second ~~and/or~~ or third holding piece (30a; 30b; 30c; 32a; 32b; 32c; 34a; 34b; 34c; 36a; 36b; 36c) includes comprises springs (50; 53) for abutting the respective first, second ~~and/or~~ or third element to the first at least one and/or or the further ~~at least one~~ second distance piece at predetermined pressures.

17. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the first, second ~~and/or~~ or third elements (3; 5; 7) are respective first, second ~~and/or~~ or third electrodes.

18. The beam optical component (1; 201) ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding, whereby wherein~~ the first, second ~~and/or~~ or third elements (203; 205) are respective first, second ~~and/or~~ or third pole pieces.

19. A charged particle beam device comprising having a beam optical component, the beam optical component comprising:

a first element having a first opening for acting on said charged particle beam;
at least one second element for acting on said charged particle beam;
a first distance piece positioned between said first element and said at least one second element to provide for a minimum distance between said first element and said second element; and
a first holding piece for abutting said first element to said first distance piece,
wherein said first holding piece is attached to said first distance piece.
~~according to any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1.